

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added. Claim 6 has been amended to delete the misplaced period at line 3 of claim 6 and define the flow temperature.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claim 6 for a misplaced period. Applicants amend claim 6 to remove the misplaced period. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7 as obvious over Walpita et al. USP 5,348,990 (Walpita '990) in view of Zickler et al. USP 5,308,892 (Zickler '892) and Makhija et al. USP 5,541,240 (Makhija '240). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Walpita '990 discloses a process for making liquid crystal polyester by mixing hollow glass spheres, PTFE and repeating units derived from 4-hydroxybenzoic acid and 6-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid. Walpita '990 fails to disclose adding hollow spheres in an amount of 2-50 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the

thermoplastic resin, which is supplied from the lower stream side supplying portion of the extruder.

The Examiner contends that Zickler '892 and Makhija '240 disclose adding fragile fillers (i.e. hollow glass spheres) into a lower part of a twin screw extruder and that this is a well known practice.

Applicants submit that neither Makhija '240 nor Zickler '892 discloses using hollow sphere in the capacity where they are in an amount of 2-50 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic resin and where the hollow sphere are supplied from the lower stream side supplying portion of the extruder. Applicants further submit that neither reference discloses substituting fragile fillers with hollow spheres as used in the present invention. Although both fragile fillers and hollow spheres may be fragile, there is no motivation to make the substitution and the examples in the present specification discourage using glass fillers.

In Examples 1 and 2 and Comparative Example 1 in the specification at pages 23 and 24 and Table 1, it is clear that glass fillers fed into an upper portion does not yield the present invention. The obtained liquid crystal polyester had a low gravity and breakdown rate only when hollow spheres were fed into the upper portion. See Examples 1 and 2 in the Table. However, when hollow spheres were fed into the upper portion, the liquid crystal

polyester composition had a higher gravity and breakdown rate. See the comparative example 1.

Please compare the results in Table 1 with the disclosure in Makhija '240, where when hollow spheres are fed into the lower portion and glass filler is fed into the upper portion, the obtained composition does not have a low gravity and breakdown rate. This is because the method taught in Makhija '240 adds fragile fillers into the lower portion of the twin screw extruder.

The results in Makhija '240 are contrary to the present invention. As such, there is no suggestion that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to arrive at the present invention from the combination of references.

Since no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$930.00 is attached hereto.

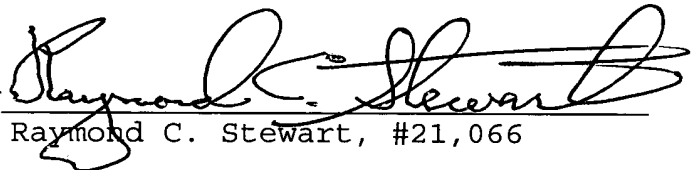
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

✓
RCS/KJR/crt
2185-0536P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000